

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE SERIES 33 (2026/27)

Eligibility Requirements

Please note, if the eligibility of any applicant changes then that applicant should immediately notify the Programme's producer as per the Eligibility Requirements.

These are the Eligibility Requirements for the Programme:

1. A team consists of four team members and one reserve member, subject to Eligibility Requirement 10 below.
2. Team members and the reserve member must not have appeared in the televised version of the Programme for any university or university college on any previous occasion.
3. The Programme is a competition for teams of students. For the purposes of the Programme, we are defining a "student" as a person:
 - (g) who has enrolled with a UK university or university college; and
 - (g) who is following a recognised course of study at that university or university college; and
 - (g) whose final award in respect of that course of study has not yet been communicated by that university or university college.
4. Team members and the reserve member must be available to attend all the recordings of the Programme on the dates notified to them by the Programme producer.
5. At the time of completing the Application Forms, and throughout all recording all team members and the reserve member must be students at the UK university or university college which is named on their Application Form and which will be named on the desk at which they sit to compete in the studio recordings of the Programme.
6. Both undergraduate and postgraduate students are eligible to participate in the Programme, subject to following a course of study at a level equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree or higher. This includes but is not limited to:

- (a) Bachelor's Degrees;
- (b) Graduate Certificates;
- (c) Graduate Diplomas;
- (d) Master's Degrees;
- (e) Postgraduate Certificates;
- (f) Postgraduate Diplomas;
- (g) Doctoral Degrees,

and is further illustrated by the examples set out in Table 1 of the QAA's "The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies" as at October 2014 (http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf?sfvrsn=170af781_14, p. 17).

7. Students on both full-time and part-time courses are eligible to participate in the Programme.
8. If an overseas student is studying at a UK university or university college as part of their course, they will be eligible to participate in the Programme, but only if they are studying at that UK institution for the whole period of recording.
9. Students who are undertaking a sabbatical, whether paid or unpaid, are not eligible to participate in the Programme if the period during which they undertake their sabbatical coincides with any of the recording dates for the Programme.
10. All team members and the reserve member must be students at the UK university or university college which is named on their Application Form for each separate recording in which they appear during the series of the Programme.

If a team member ceases to be a student (as defined in Eligibility Requirement 3 above) prior to or during the recordings of the Programme, they must inform the Programme producer immediately when they cease to be eligible to take part.

If a team member becomes ineligible to participate prior to the commencement of recording, they may be replaced by an eligible reserve member who must be part of the initial team selection process.

If a team member becomes ineligible after the recording has commenced then the team may have to withdraw from the competition. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Programme producer consider a reserve member replacing a team member who is no longer eligible. Please note the Programme producer's decision is final in this regard.

11. Once the Application Forms have been submitted, if prior to or during the recording of the Programme a team member or the reserve member transfers from one university or university college to another, they must inform the Programme producer at the first opportunity. They will cease to be eligible to play for the university or university college under whose name they have applied or competed up to that point, and will not be eligible to play for the university or university college to which they transfer. This rule applies to transfers from one university to another. It also applies to transfers from one college to another within a collegiate university system.
12. If a reserve member takes over from a team member they do so for the full duration of the recordings in which the team participates and the replaced team member can no longer participate in any further recordings for this or any other university or university college.
13. Subject to Eligibility Requirement 9 above, being in employment as well as being a student does not preclude a team member or reserve member from entering or appearing on the Programme provided they satisfy Eligibility Requirement 3 above. However all employment details must be provided in the relevant section of the Application Form. If, after having completed the Application Form and whilst still participating in the Programme, a team member or the reserve member takes on employment, they must at their first opportunity inform the Programme producer of their change in circumstances. Provided they continue to satisfy Eligibility Requirement 3 above, they will still be eligible to participate in the Programme.
14. It is the team member's responsibility to ensure that the information given in the statement they make on screen at the beginning of each recording of the Programme, which may include but is not confined to their name, place

of birth and course of study, is accurate and reflects their status as a student at the time of each recording.

15. There is no upper or lower age limit on contestants participating in the Programme; however, if a team member or reserve member is under the age of 16, their participation may be subject to: (i) the consent of their parent or legal guardian, and their parent or legal guardian may be required to accompany such contestant to the studio recording(s); and (ii) obtaining all necessary permissions and licences (including but not limited to permission from the local education authority).
16. We have the right at our sole discretion to add to, delete from, modify or amend these Eligibility Requirements and to select participants for the Programme. In all circumstances concerning the interpretation and application of these Eligibility Requirements, our decision will be final.